

Ryan promoted, takes command of VaANG

Col. Jeffrey L. Ryan was officially promoted to brigadier general Feb. 15, 2019, during a ceremony at the Virginia National Guard Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia, and took command of the Virginia Air National Guard. Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, announced Feb. 6, 2019, that Ryan would succeed Brig. Gen. Marshall Kjelvik as the VNG Air Component Commander effective Feb. 5. Ryan most recently served as the vice commander of the 192nd Wing at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton.

Ryan has extensive command experience at the squadron and group levels, as well as staff time as VaANG director of logistics, Williams wrote in the announcement. “Jeff’s breadth and depth of experience have uniquely prepared him to lead our Airmen at this most senior level, and we look forward to seeing how he builds on the strong foundation laid by Brig. Gen. Kjelvik,” he wrote.

As the ACC, Ryan is responsible for leading the Virginia Air National Guard, and he is the primary advisor to the Adjutant General on Air National Guard state and federal readiness.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/16/12625/>



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Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia’s newest Ranger recognized at Washington Capitals Game

Just before graduating from his initial training to become an infantryman, Virginia National Guard Soldier Pfc. Gavin Asbury was offered the chance to go to Ranger School. His drill sergeants noticed his success and recommended he take his training to the next level and try for a spot at Ranger School.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/20/12649/>

SMP cadets hone leadership, Soldier skills with help from 183rd RTI

ROTC Cadets enrolled in the Simultaneous Membership Program have been training with cadre assigned to the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute at Fort Pickett, Virginia, to increase their leadership skills.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/20/12661/>

Whitt selected as new 329th RSG command sergeant major

Command Sgt. Maj. Dempsey O. Whitt was selected to serve as the new 329th Regional Support Group command sergeant major, according to an announcement made Jan. 1, 2019.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/20/12668/>

VNG Youth Program searching for volunteers

The Virginia National Guard Youth Program is searching for engaging, dedicated individuals who are passionate about working with National Guard Youth to volunteer at their events and camps throughout the next year.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/14/12621/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

Va. Air National Guard

<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

RVA's 19th century African-American armory part of VNG history

Just a few miles from the Virginia National Guard Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia, stands an imposing brick structure resembling a medieval fortress in the historic African-American neighborhood of Jackson Ward, just north of downtown Richmond.

The building, which today houses the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, holds an important part of Virginia National Guard history under its turrets and towers. It's known as the Leigh Street Armory, and holds the distinction of being not just the oldest armory expressly built for African-Americans in Virginia, but also the entire country.

The castle-like armory was built in the 1890's to house the 1st Battalion Virginia Volunteers, Richmond's African-American militia.

"Early militias were the predecessors to the National Guard," said Sarah Campbell, curator for the Virginia National Guard Museum.

After the onset of the Spanish-American war in 1898, all states were required to assemble volunteer armies. At this time, the 1st Battalion Virginia Volunteers, from Richmond, were mustered with 2nd Battalion, from Petersburg, to form the 6th Virginia Volunteers. The unit was called to federal active duty and trained at various facilities, but never saw combat before being disbanded. Soon after, the historic Leigh Street Armory's role shifted away from military use.

"In 1899, the state dissolved black militia, in the midst of the Jim Crow era, and this building was immediately turned into a segregated school," said Campbell. "It has a really deep tie to African-American history today, but the Guard only used it as an armory for about five years."

Despite the short-lived use as an armory, the history of the African-American citizen Soldiers it was built for is significant.

"The fact that there were African-Americans to form a militia ready to defend this city and the state, so soon after the Civil War, is amazing to me," said Mary Lauderdale, the visitor services manager for the Black History Museum.

The ties to Richmond's black history don't end there. Lauderdale explained that the building was constructed by African-Americans, including master bricklayer and contractor Armstead Walker, husband to celebrated African-American educator and business woman Maggie Walker.

"The fact that money was allocated for this building from the city, the fact it was a black bricklayer and contractor, the fact that blacks now had a place to drill, the fact that it was in Jackson Ward, all of these things are just phenomenal," said Lauderdale. "That's why it's so important to preserve this building and for us to be here."

After decades as a segregated school, the building again entered into military service in the 1940's, when it housed African-American troops serving during World War II. During that time, it served an estimated 56,000 troops over several years.

In 2016, the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of



The historic Leigh Street Armory in Richmond, Virginia, was originally built in the late 19th century for Richmond's 1st Battalion Virginia Volunteers. It is now home to the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia.

Virginia moved into the renovated armory. While the structure no longer serves a military function, the building and the museum it houses are still serving the community in a very important way.

"Our mission is to preserve stories that inspire," said Adele Johnson, the museum's executive director. "The opportunity for us is to inspire contemporary history makers and future history makers, because we have a lot of students who come in. We want them to see that they're standing on the shoulders of many great people who have come before them."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/20/12631/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Family bonds help military couple separated by deployment

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/14/12615/>

Efforts underway to digitize VNG's WWI personnel records

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/19/12554/>

Photos: VDF displays capabilities at amateur radio show

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157703301562852>

Photos: 229th BEB Soldiers conduct flight operations

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157676445967637>

Photos: 276th Engineers train on countermobility

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157676449798017>



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